

Message Text

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FOR: PGM/RC

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SUBJECT: SUDANESE MEDIA REACTION REPORT, APRIL 18-24, 1978

REF: NESA-67

SECRETARY VANCE'S MOSCOW TRIP AND MIDEAST ISSUES WERE MAJOR U.S. RELATED SUBJECTS EDITORIALY TREATED BY SUDANESE PRESS THIS PAST WEEK. SUBJECTS COMPETED WITH COMMENTARIES NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND OTHER REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS. COMMENTATORS PROPERLY HOPEFUL VANCE VISIT WOULD YIELD POSITIVE RESULTS AND CONTINUED TO CRITICIZE ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE.

1. MIDDLE EAST

AL-SHAFA APRIL 18 ASKED: "DOES ISRAELI DECISION TO REVIEW ITS POSITION ON U.N. RESOLUTION 242 MEAN CHANGE IN ITS HARDLINE POLICY, OR IS IT MERELY ATTEMPT TO NARROW GAP BETWEEN ISRAEL AND U.S.?" COMMENTATOR INTONED REFRAIN: "WAY TO PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN M.E. IS COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED LANDS AND RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS." COMMENTATOR APRIL 24 AL-AYAM OPINED: "ISRAELI HARDLINE POLICY PUT U.S. IN DIFFICULT POSITION, BECAUSE IT DOES NOT KNOW WHAT TO CHOSE, ISRAELI SECURITY OR ITS INTERESTS IN AREA." HE CONCLUDED: "IT IS NOT OUR BUSINESS TO ASK U.S. ADMINISTRATION TO STAND BESIDE ITS INTERESTS IN M.E., BUT WE WANT TO POINT OUT CONTRADICTION
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BETWEEN DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS AND PRESERVING ISRAELI SECURITY AND BETWEEN SUCH COMMITMENT AND THE PRINCIPLES ON WHICH U.S. HAS BEEN FOUNDED."

2. VANCE'S MOSCOW TRIP

APRIL 20 AL-AYAM COMMENTATOR WROTE: "IF SOVIETS INSIST THAT U.S.

GIVES CONVINCING PROMISE NOT TO PRODUCE NEUTRON BOMB, IN ORDER
TO REACH NEW SALT AGREEMENT, THIS MIGHT EMBARRASS U.S. WITH
ITS ALLIES IN WEST EUROPE, PARTICULARLY GERMANS WHO WANT NEUTRON
WEAPON TO KEEP ARMS BALANCE BETWEEN NATO AND WARSAW."
STEELE

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